



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5578

LCO No. 1973

01973_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING EQUIVALENT CREDITS FOR GRADUATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 10-221a of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

4 (d) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the
5 local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the
6 curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter
7 of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of
8 education may permit a student to graduate during a period of
9 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
10 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
11 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
12 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, as amended,
13 except when the planning and placement team for such student
14 determines the requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this
15 section;

16 (1) For classes graduating from 2005 to 2008, inclusive, a credit shall

17 consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for
18 each school day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit
19 toward high school graduation earned at an institution accredited by
20 the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One
21 three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution
22 shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this section.

23 (2) For classes graduating in 2009, and for each graduating class
24 thereafter, a credit shall consist of not less than one school year of
25 study or the equivalent based on the demonstration of competencies
26 consistent with content standards adopted by the State Board of
27 Education. Such demonstration of equivalence shall be described in the
28 plan submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-223a, as
29 amended by this act, and may include performance on standardized
30 tests, successful completion of coursework at an institution accredited
31 by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited, or
32 other activities approved by the local or regional board of education. A
33 student earning a credit equivalent pursuant to this subdivision shall
34 be in the tenth grade or higher and may apply no more than one such
35 credit toward graduation requirements.

36 (e) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,
37 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional
38 board of education may grant a student credit [(1)] toward meeting a
39 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade
40 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds
41 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in
42 grades nine to twelve, inclusive. [; or (2) toward meeting the high
43 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
44 coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher
45 Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course,
46 or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for
47 purposes of this section.]

48 Sec. 2. Section 10-223a of the general statutes is amended by adding

49 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

50 (NEW) (c) On or before July 1, 2005, each local and regional board of
51 education shall adopt and submit to the Department of Education a
52 plan for the awarding of graduation credit equivalents for classes
53 graduating in 2009, and for each graduating class thereafter. Such plan
54 shall describe how students shall be notified of the opportunity to
55 obtain such credit equivalents and detail the procedure by which
56 students may obtain credit equivalents.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a system for alternative equivalent credits for graduation.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]